

# Heber City will look for tabernacle financing

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HEBER CITY — The Heber City Council has unanimously authorized Mayor Gordon Mendenhall to investigate alternative financing for the Wasatch Stakehouse renovation and to launch a "positive campaign" to inform citizens that the project will not increase taxes.

The Farm Home Loan Administration has already given preliminary approval of a loan for the project. However, public financing would also mean the city would have to fully comply with State

Historical Society regulations, which will add significant costs and which has already proven to be a problem in Wasatch County's renovation of the historic building which houses the Senior Citizens Center. Therefore, the mayor recommended private financing.

He noted that the first such stumbling block, as a result of public financing, is already delaying the project. When the city bought the building from the LDS Church, the church stipulated that "church standards" must be maintained. Because the city intends to

remodel the tabernacle as a public building, including the city offices, the mayor has requested a waiver of that condition from church officials. Although they assured him about two months ago that a letter to that effect is forthcoming, it hasn't arrived. As a government arm, the Farm Home Loan Administration refuses to proceed any further with the loan because it considers the condition discriminatory.

Citizens will have an opportunity to accept or reject the renovation plans in a July 7 election. If they

accept, the money will become available around mid-August.

The city's budget already includes approximately \$46,000 per year for city office improvements and has accumulated over \$300,000 to date. Payments on a ten-year loan of the balance necessary to complete the renovation, about \$200,000, will be made from the money already budgeted.

Even though there will be no tax increase, the public must determine, through an election, whether the city may take on the loan.